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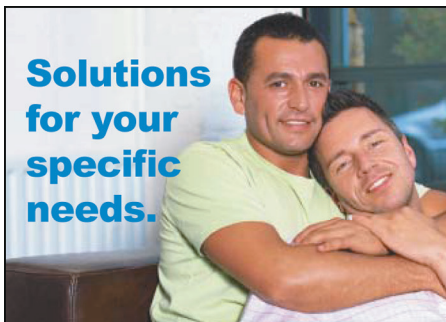
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Rewriting History.

THIS IS the third comprehensive Wedding Issue that Lavender has published for the GLBT community; the theme is “Rewriting History.” History can be written, revised, and rewritten as it is reimagined or reconsidered. Or, history can be rewritten as it is revealed. As we continue this campaign toward equality in this community, new relationships between loving people of the same sex emerge as frequently as any other type of relationship. What is as important at this moment is that established same-sex relationships are emerging. Coming out. These relationships have existed for years, decades, scores of years—and, as the state and nation move toward legally recognizing same-sex marriage, history is being rewritten with inclusion at its core.

We’ve taken this theme of examining weddings and marriage throughout history and applied it to the contents of this issue. In his cheeky way, E.B. Boatner looks at nomenclature and the difference between “marriage” and “civil unions,” particularly as the Associated Press (AP) is rewriting its stylebook to include “husband” and “wife” as acceptable when speaking of married same-sex couples. Pam Colby experiences a wedding through her sons’ eyes and reconsiders her own historical aversion to weddings, both queer and straight. John Townsend examines the ever-changing institution of marriage as written by Shakespeare and performed by Propeller in the current stage production of *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Twelfth Night* at the Guthrie Theater. Not only do we see an archaic view of dowries and arranged marriage, but we also see how Shakespeare’s plays were performed originally (by all-male casts), further throwing “traditional” marriage on its ear. Wedding planners at Style-Architects and Fabulous Functions give tips and advice as to how to make your event be perfect for you—making your own history.

Not just our articles are rewriting history, but who you see in these pages of this issue represent significant changes in this community. We’ve partnered with more wedding industry professionals than ever who are standing up for same-sex marriage by appearing in these pages and presenting this community in their work. Union Depot and The Bachelor Farmer are old spaces made new—and they welcome the community for same-sex weddings. You’ll see in our pages a very significant and history-making set of ads with a red bulls-eye on them, indicating that Lavender, this community, same-sex marriage, and the wedding industry are clearly going in the same direction, as business is indicating.

Look to our pages as a shopper of sorts—I’ll claim that label and

run with it. We cover a number of topics in our Editorial Calendar and feature many businesses and professions new to Lavender, as well as some of our own advertisers. This publication—most apropos of any publications—showcases advertisers who believe in us enough to step up and put forth their dollars to reach you as a valid demographic group that is worthy of money and attention. When Nick and James (“Showmance Turned Romance” on pg. 68) came in for their photo session, I got a great reminder of how Lavender plays the role of a shopping guide. They’d just picked up their wedding rings from one of our advertisers, T Lee, and were very excited. Nick and James were quick to tell me that they chose T Lee to custom design their rings because she advertises in Lavender. That was a big bright spot in the week...and the rings are stunning, especially on the hands of two handsome men in love.

History is not just being rewritten in our pages, but also on our Facebook page and Twitter feed through the links and information that we post and repost from others. We follow the movers and shakers in politics who are at the center of the action and act as a megaphone when their news hits the social networking wires.

Our website now includes articles from more than three magazines full of the topic of same-sex weddings and marriage. LavenderMagazine.com is a resource library that is rewriting the history of this community and building upon years of knowledge from the viewpoint of being a marginalized group that is now moving toward the center. Topics we’ve already covered in previous wedding issues are numerous, you can click on the category “2012 Wedding Issue” and get a long list of articles to help you navigate your way: Changing your name; different versions of make-up (camera-ready, beauty, and transformative); recipes and tips for throwing your own wedding; the legality of marriage; wedding etiquette; wedding fashion; great GLBT bars for bachelor/bachelorette parties; kids and same-sex weddings; how to make a more perfect union; various venues and caterers; budgeting tips; love stories; and many beautiful real weddings...all for the GLBT community. All for you.

2013 is a year that will hopefully rewrite history for same-sex marriage on both the state and national levels. Hold this magazine in your hand proudly as you look toward your own future and plan it. Plan your future. Same-Sex Marriage will be a part of it.

With hope and gratitude,
Andy ■



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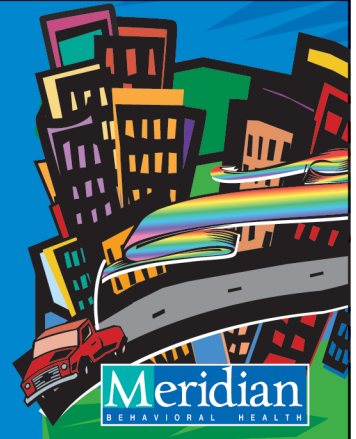
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A WORD IN EDGEWISE

by E.B. Boatner

I Now Pronounce You...

THE DISCUSSIONS roil on about whether to hold out until legalized same-sex pairings are called “marriages” or to yield to the separate-but-equal “civil unions” terminology if that will allow the unions to happen.

Personally? I think that every legal joining of two consenting adults in our society should be called a “marriage,” whatever the division of their X and Y chromosomes.

However. “Marriage” as a term still meets greater resistance than “civil union.” “Civil union” reflects biased thinking, but if it’s the open sesame to 500+ state benefits and protections, why not? Once same-sex wedded couples enjoy equal rights with straight marrieds, *then* is the time to tackle the semantics. (Not to forget that until the DOMA at the Federal level is abolished, 1,138 rights, benefits and protections remain unavailable.)

The distancing “civil union” nomenclature is reminiscent of what female children have long endured having their accomplishments, however outstanding, labeled, “Not bad for a girl.” It’s only demeaning if you let it be. Many little girls have done and are still doing amazing things; think Madame Curie, think Hillary Clinton.

In a prophetic sea change, the venerable AP (Associated Press) has announced that it is revising its style-book, the bible of numerous magazines and newspapers worldwide, to include “a single standard when referring to gay and straight spouses.” Nathaniel Frank, in his *Los Angeles Times* article, notes the “entry for ‘husband, wife’”: “Regardless of sexual orientation, ‘husband’ or ‘wife’ is acceptable in all references to individuals in any legally recognized marriage. ‘Spouse’ or ‘partner’ may be used if requested.”

This would mean, as I understand it, that even if a gay couple is joined in a state that admits only civil unions, if their wedding is written up under AP guidelines, they will be husbands and wives, terms the opponents of same-sex marriage have yet to render into semantic topiary.

I write this on the day that the new bill to legalize same-sex marriage is being unveiled at the Capitol. Gays and lesbians, one can see in this issue, continue to wed, to have homes and families and to cherish one another. One day their marriages will be deemed legal by our society as well as by the one who created all men and women. □

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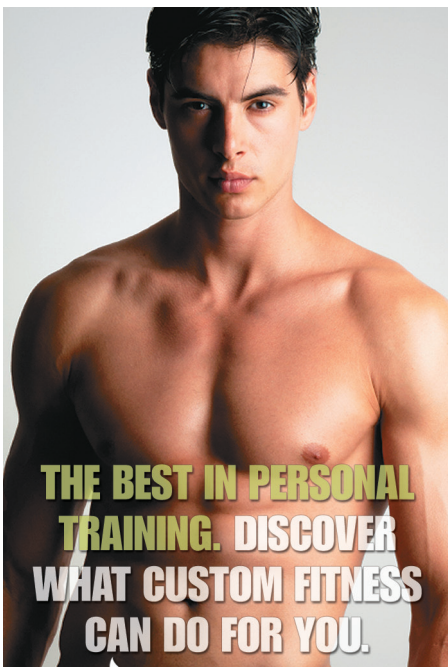
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Gerry and Kevin's Wedding

WHEN I was seven years old my grandmother made a beaded lace purse for me to carry to my aunt's Lutheran wedding. Even with my name embroidered on it, I had no interest. I didn't like wearing a dress and I didn't like the purse. I left it in the toilet at the church, where my sister discovered it in horror and tattled on me.

Like many GLBT people of my generation, I have a complicated relationship with marriage and weddings. They were not part of my queer and feminist culture in the 1980s. If an invitation to a straight wedding arrived, a dose of anxiety came with it. Not only could we not get married, we were often asked to remain in the closet at family weddings. We attended very special and beautiful "commitment ceremonies," but never imagined that legal marriage would be a reality in our lifetime.

The first time I saw queer people getting married was in 1989. I was working on a documentary at the GLBT march on Washington, and I was assigned to cover the gay weddings. I had private thoughts about this. Was it the best place for our energy? The AIDS epidemic was raging, and there were so many other things that seemed more important. Yet, here I was documenting a street filled with men clasping the hands of men, and women clinging to women, all taking their vows together.

It was also around this time that I en-

tered into a long-term lesbian relationship. We had a child together, and I learned a lot about our legal system and the privileges that come with heterosexual marriage. One particular incident with the medical system stands out. I was in my early thirties, and my partner's appendix burst while we were on vacation. It wasn't diagnosed until days later when we arrived home. This caused a frightening possibility that my partner could go into sepsis. She was rushed to surgery. At this time we were very committed, owned a house together, and had a two-year old son. We were, by all standards, married.

I can remember pacing the waiting room. The surgery was going longer than they predicted, and I was crazy with worry. When the surgeon finally came out, he wouldn't look at me, he would only talk to my partner's parents. At this point I was so relieved to hear that the surgery had gone well, I didn't care that the surgeon would not talk to me. But my partner's mother cared. I'll never forget her yelling at that man, "Talk to HER, tell her, you need to speak to her." At that point, he made brief eye contact with me and walked away. I wish I could say that sort of thing doesn't happen any more, but we all know better.

So now we arrive at a warm July day in 2012, where in my mailbox I found a large invitation to a traditional Lutheran wedding ceremony for dear family friends Kevin and

Gerry. Wow, the whole nine yards, a big deal wedding. A few weeks after receiving the invitation, I ran into Gerry. He told me my 21-year old son had been one of the first to return the RSVP card. Truthfully, this surprised me a little. My son was extremely busy, and I hadn't known if he would make the wedding a priority. I went home and for the first time talked to my 13-year old son about the wedding. He didn't hesitate, he wanted to go. He added that he hadn't been to a wedding. He didn't say gay. I began to see the wedding through their eyes, untainted by my history. Gerry and Kevin were important people to them, they wanted to be at their wedding.

So, on a beautiful Saturday in September, I found myself seated in a Lutheran church pew with my former partner. Our relationship lasted a respectable 20 years and we remain committed parenting partners. Seated with us were our two sons. The music started and we stood to watch Gerry and Kevin walk down the aisle after 15 years together, celebrated by the clergy, family, and friends. They both were beaming and tears were flowing.

For me, it was at Gerry and Kevin's wedding that I let go of the last vestiges of my apprehensions about marriage. I could see the beauty in the ceremony, with all its historical complexities. It was simply a beautiful moment in time, a moment to celebrate love, because really, it is something to celebrate. ■



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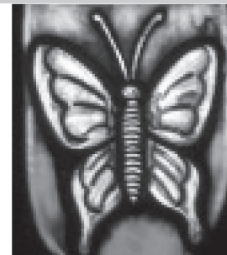
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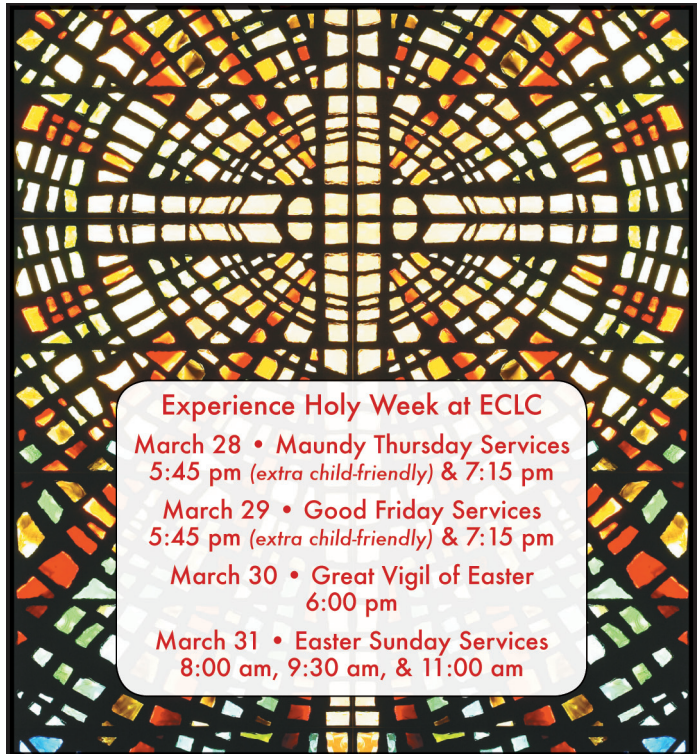
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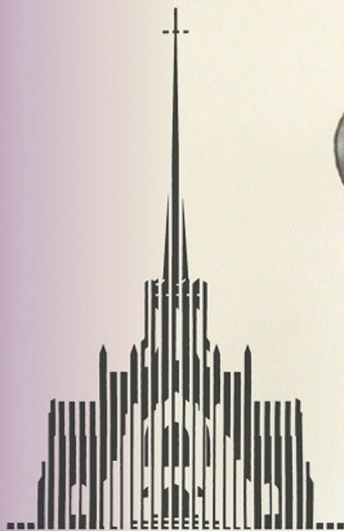
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March 24

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11:00 AM Passion Concert

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28

12:00 Noon in the Chapel
7:00 PM in the Art Gallery

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29

12:00 Noon in the Chapel
7:00 PM in the Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31

7:00 AM in the East Entry
9:30 & 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary

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Thinking

{ WEDDING ISSUE }

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HOW SHAKESPEARE CHALLENGES THE INSTITUTION OF ARRANGED (HETEROSEXUAL) MARRIAGE

A Conversation with Vince Leigh and Dan Wheeler – The Leads in Propeller's Superlative All-Male The Taming of the Shrew

Definition of DOWRY: the money, goods, or estate that a woman brings to her husband in marriage.

—The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Those who extol traditional marriage as based on love between a man and a woman fail to acknowledge that such love, which is romantic, is actually a comparatively recent historical development in the evolution of the definition of marriage. In fact, marriage traditions for most of human history have had little to do with love. For centuries, if not millennia, marriage has been a matter of parents, fathers in particular, using their offspring as bargaining chips to increase their wealth.

In the late 18th and 19th century there were various figures like Mary Wollstonecraft, the participants at Seneca Falls, Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters, and George Eliot, who shook up the marginalized place that women of all classes were held in. And in the first half of the last century figures like Lucy Burns, Alice Paul, Eleanor Roos-

evelt and Simone de Beauvoir built on their foremothers. To point: (and conservatives hate hearing this) feminism opened the door to equality between men and women and heightened the real possibility of romantic love between the two. By the mid-20th century arranged marriage was pretty much a thing of the past, at least in the West. Thank our feminist foremothers for that.

However, it must be remembered that the major cultural figure who dealt arranged heterosexual marriage a profound and enduring assault centuries earlier was William Shakespeare. In the bard's time, only men were allowed to act on the stage, therefore, women's roles had to be played by men. London's superlative Propeller troupe, an all-male ensemble, is now playing the Guthrie Theater with Shakespeare's often misunderstood and savage satire on arranged marriage, *The Taming of the Shrew*. Director Edward Hall has staged a serious text-based inquiry into what these characters are from both and interior view and from the social exterior of the time in which

Continued on page 20 ➔



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Palm Sunday: March 24, 10:30 am
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Stations of the Cross Experience: March 29 from 10am-1pm
Good Friday Tenebrae Service: March 29 at 7 pm • Soup Supper at 6pm
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EASTER SUNDAY:

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serious text-based inquiry into what these characters are from both and interior view and from the social exterior of the time in which it was written. This is not some dinglebatty camp show. In today's Post-Sexual Revolution world, it's not only a great window into the archaic tradition of arranged marriage but a marvelous example of crossgender performance. I spoke with the production's splendid lead actors, Vince Leigh who plays Petruchio and Dan Wheeler who plays Katherine aka Kate.

JT: Shakespeare was profoundly critical of the institution of arranged marriage and that really comes through in *The Taming of the Shrew* and your performances.

VL: The very fact that Petruchio turns up in a foreign town and says I want to marry money and then the men sort that all out. And then he agrees before he even meets Katherine. It's what's my dowry? What's this? What's that? Okay, that's acceptable. I'll have her. The wooing scene is actually irrelevant. It's just a bit of witty foreplay.

DW: She's been commodified. It's almost a slightly sort of bitter-sweet fact that they kind of get on quite well in that scene, but that becomes an irrelevancy, like you say, it wouldn't have mattered if they hadn't got on. Your father has consented that you will be my wife.

VL: Your dowry agreed on.

DW: I think the play is an example of what happens if you follow that through to its most extreme conclusion, where a woman has to marry against her will; or perhaps if any two people forced to marry each other when they don't necessarily love each other.

VL: The basis of all those societies where dowries are, it's no longer a personal choice. It's purely for business.

DW: When a person, in this case, a wife, is part of a financial transaction, she's going to be treated like a piece of property. She's sort of subjugated until she has nothing left. Her personality is almost removed. That's not part of what's required of her.

JT: Kate is so often, too often, played for easy fun as a trashy, beligerent woman. But she is dehumanized by what is going on.

DW: We talked alot about this and I was saying to someone the other day: I think that having done this play this way, I would now find it hard to be part of a production of *The Taming of the Shrew* that played it for laughs and tried to present a happy ending because I think that would be a cop out. Not the truth of the situation.

VL: It's not how it's written. It was written in a time when women were commodified. In that society (there were) dunking stools. And

if someone spoke out: 'we'll teach you! we'll take you down the river and get all the people to watch you.'

DW: People get caught up in this thing where if you accept *The Taming of the Shrew* the way we play it, then that says something terrible about Shakespeare, that he condones this sort of relationship and he's written this and you're supposed to laugh at domestic violence. And I think that's absolutely *not* the case because he writes so many strong-willed woman who do make a happy ending for themselves and very equal relationships. Like the one I always use is Beatrice and Benedick and they have a wonderfully equal relationship and people seem to come to see *The Taming of the Shrew* and go away thinking, well I really wanted to see *Much Ado About Nothing*. It's a different story.

VL: Because he's not condoning the behavior. He's absolutely exposing the patriarchy for the bullies and for the cruel way they were treating (women) in the time that it was actually happening.

JT: Even in centuries past *The Taming of the Shrew* was held up by some as immoral because of its supposed mean-spirited representation of a woman. Any thoughts on how people got so off track from what this play really says?

VL: At the time it was first viewed it would have been seen as almost a quite liberal play.

DW: I imagined people would have laughed at the end, as opposed to our audience, that (are) sort of stunned into silence. But I don't think them laughing at the end would have indicated that they thought the situation was right. And I think maybe we just got a little bit confused, or did a couple of hundred years ago, about the difference between a comedy and a tragedy: (the idea that) in a comedy everything has to be funny and it has to have a completely happy ending. So how do you make it a happy ending? Well, (then) it becomes a misogynist play. But as long as you accept that it's a play where there are laughs. And it ends with a marriage, which I think is just a classical interpretation of a comedy: it ends in a marriage. □

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David A. Van Dyke, preaching
The Motet Choir
The House of Hope Choir School

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28
12 noon, Worship and
Holy Communion,
Elizabeth Chapel
Joann H. Lee, preaching

7:30 p.m., The Office of Tenebrae
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7:30 p.m., Good Friday Vespers,
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The Bach Chamber Players

**HOLY WEEK
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EASTER SUNDAY, March 31

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Jeffrey T. Foels, preaching
Breakfast following

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David A. Van Dyke, preaching
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Create Your Dream Wedding

Style-Architects, the creative company who designed and styled the wedding spread found in this issue of Lavender Magazine, is a boutique lifestyle services agency dedicated to wedding and special occasion planning, and fashion and wardrobe styling. Rachelle Mazumdar, director of weddings and special events at Style-Architects, has been planning special events for over eight years. Here, she shares with us her insights and exclusive wedding planning tips.

ESTABLISH A VISION

According to Mazumdar, the first step newly engaged couples should take in the planning process is to establish a wedding day vision. Developing a vision early on is important to ensure that all the wedding elements are cohesive. Sometimes couples make the mistake of incorporating elements that aren't stylistically consistent with their vision. For example, a couple wouldn't want to include preppy/nautical clothing in an edgy-warehouse space like Aria. "Developing a vision sets the stage for the whole wedding," says Mazumdar. "One of the roles I play throughout the planning process is help curating the random inspirational images that couples bring to their initial consultation."

SET THE BUDGET

All couples hope for a flawless wedding with top-notch finishes. However, couples often overestimate what they can get for their money. "Often times, couples over-commit early on in the process for the expensive items, such as venue or fashion, and find that they don't have enough money left over to complete their vision. They end up with a great venue with stripped down finishes," says Mazumdar. She encourages couples to sit down and allocate money early on in the

planning process. This includes checking with various vendors to ensure that desired price points are realistic. Mazumdar also suggests utilizing someone who understands the industry, like a planner, to help with budget allocation.

CHOOSE A VENUE THAT SUITS YOU AND THE BUDGET

A venue plays an extremely important role in achieving the wedding day look every



Rachelle Mazumdar, Director of Weddings + Events, Style-Architects

couple wants. Not only should the venue fit in with the style of the overall wedding, but it should also be budget-friendly. Mazumdar shares some tips on how to pick the right venue without completely emptying the couple's wallet. "When looking at venues, I encourage couples to request a sample banquet event order (BEO) before signing on the dotted line." Many couples just assume there is one fee associated with a venue, which is the rental cost. However, a BEO itemizes every little cost that a couple would need to pay. For venues which require you to work with an off-site catering company, be sure to request a BEO from them as well. "Often times, rentals and staffing are not included in the food cost as it is with on-site caterers; therefore, off-site can appear less expensive. However, staffing and rentals can easily run several thousands of dollars."

RENTAL ROCK

Many couples are unaware of the various elements that are available to rent in order to complete their wedding day dreams. Whether couples want vintage farm tables, sleek and contemporary pieces, or an assortment of eclectic dining room chairs, nobody wants to run around town looking for (and splurging on) the perfect items that will only be used once. Whether its furniture, linens, dishware, or décor, rental companies are a great way for couples to achieve the look they want at a fraction of the price of buying.

FEELING CAMERA-READY IS A MUST

The photographer is one of the most important vendors involved in a couple's wedding day. After all, photographs are one of the only wedding day items that will last a lifetime. While there are so many talented wedding photographers in the industry, it is more important to find one that the couple meshes well with on a personal level. "You spend the entire day with your photographer, so pick someone you could see becoming a friend," says Mazumdar. If couples don't feel comfortable with their photographer, it will show in their photos.

GET THE BIGGEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Although everyone wishes they could splurge on every wedding décor element, the budget doesn't always agree. Mazumdar identifies a few key décor items that are

definitely worth a little penny stretching. Most venues have traditional banquet chairs that can really take away from the look a couple is trying to achieve. Couples that rent outside chairs (such as vintage dining chairs, wooden garden chairs, ghost chairs or chiavaris) can really transform a room from a boring banquet space to a perfectly polished reception. Lighting is another asset that can turn a wedding reception from "so-so" to simply stunning. Mazumdar encourages couples to invest in additional lighting because it really enhances the space as well as draw attention to the décor elements once the natural light fades. "It's really a shame how guests can no longer see the beautiful florals and linens at the reception once the lights dim and the dancing begins," says Mazumdar. Whether couples prefer a muted lighting palette or a more dramatic hue, bringing in an expert lighting vendor can add that "wow" factor to the reception space.

GIVE IT A BRAND

A big trend Mazumdar sees in today's weddings is personal branding. Couples are shying away from themed weddings and steering more towards a wedding that incorporates elements that are custom expressions of them. Because Style-Architects is part of a larger branding company, Mazumdar understands the important role branding plays in weddings today. "Branding is so much more than taking a monogram and sticking it on the invitation, the cake, and guest favors," says Mazumdar. "It's more of a personal expression of the couple and the couple's style." If one design (such as a monogram) is utilized on every décor element, the uniqueness and impact diminishes. One suggestion for couples is that branding doesn't have to be so literal. Couples can be creative with branding by taking bits and pieces of a design element and incorporating them throughout the rest of the wedding. For instance, a pattern of vintage lace from a veil can be repeated on a corner of the menu card. Or, if stripes are a design feature on the invitation, a white on white fondant stripe could be used on the wedding cake.

"At Style-Architects we love celebrating love of all kinds. We strive to make sure your guests see your personality as a couple shine through in every detail," says Mazumdar. □



{ THROW YOUR OWN WEDDING }

by Ross Sveback

Photography by Jesi Hoolihan Photography

OF S E X Y & PLATES

Shouldn't your wedding be as unique as the two of you? My thought was to create wedding cakes based off dinnerware patterns you can register for that would inspire you to look at your own registry dinnerware to create a wedding cake tailored to you both. What made this even more fun was it allowed for interesting cakes inside – aren't we all tired of vanilla, yellow or chocolate cakes? The recipes presented can be paired down to make regular cakes for everyday occasions or scaled up to create larger masterpieces than what you see pictured. It was my goal to try and cover several taste styles. From clean and simple with the Eva Zeisel's Century dinnerware paired with an Orange Poppy Seed cake and Olivia Barry's Spool collection transformed into a Coffee Cardamom cake – to patterned and colorful with Ralph Lauren's Ethan English creamware transformed into a Tweed cake with Vanilla & Chocolate Buttercreams swirled together and Sagaform's Retro collection which when cut open reveals a Blueberry Buttermilk cake iced in a decadent Blueberry Jam Buttercream. I hope you enjoy them and are inspired as much as I enjoyed creating every single crumb.



Orange Poppy Seed Cake with Orange Blossom Buttercream

My inspiration for this cake came from the Eva Zeisel Century Tabletop Collection from Crate & Barrel. I love the lines and whimsy of each piece. It was important for me to have the cake's appearance be subtle, yet the flavor be the big profile. So here orange is paired with poppy seeds to bring your full attention forward. I loved using the gravy boat as the cake topper – to me, it's a celebration of Eva's work. This recipe makes a two-layer cake, so you can double, triple or quadruple to make this as high as you want. I tripled this recipe to make a two-tier, three-layered cake using oval cake pans from Wilton and doubled the frosting recipe. The two middle-sized oval pans were used to create this cake.

1 lb. unsalted butter, room temperature
3/4 cup sugar
6 eggs
1 1/2 cups buttermilk
2 teaspoons vanilla bean paste
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
Zest of two (2) oranges
1 cup orange juice
1/2 cup poppy seeds
4 cups all purpose flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and prep pans by spraying them with Bak-klene, lining with parchment, and spraying again with Bak-klene. Cream butter and sugar together, scraping bowl if necessary to ensure everything is combined. Add eggs, one at a time, continuing to scrape bowl and ensure even distribution. Add buttermilk, vanilla bean paste, baking powder, salt, orange zest, orange juice, and poppy seeds – mixing on low until well combined. Finally add the flour and mix on medium low until mixture begins to appear smooth and no lumps.

Divide batter evenly between baking pans, making sure they all are the same batter height on the inside edge. Bake for 30-40 minutes, depending on the size of your pan – checking middle of cake with a tester to ensure it comes out clean. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 20 minutes before removing from pan. Wrap with plastic wrap and place into refrigerator to chill so you can form into layers and assemble with icing (recipe below).

Frosting:

1 lb. unsalted butter, room temperature
4 cups powdered sugar
1 cup heavy whipping cream
1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
Zest of 2 oranges
1 tablespoon orange blossom flower water

Combine ingredients in a mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Begin to mix the ingredients on low until they have come together, then switch to high and beat for ten minutes, spread onto chilled cake.



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Coffee Cardamom Cake with Coffee Cardamom Buttercream

Cardamom is a spice I remember fondly from my childhood, growing up in a Scandinavian household. Here I took this familiar spice and created a cake by blending it with instant espresso, nutmeg, and fresh-ground pepper. The recipe below is for a tiered wedding cake (4x6 & 4x10), yet you can easily halve this recipe and create a single-layer cake for yourself. You will get roughly 14 cups of batter – I put 1 cup in each 6 inch pan, and 2.5 cups in each 10 inch pan. Olivia Barry's Spool Dinnerware from Crate & Barrel was the inspiration for the cakes overall design which was created by running a small icing spatula over the outside of the cake to mimic the pattern on the dinnerware.

2 cups (4 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
3 1/2 cups sugar
8 eggs
2 tablespoons ground cardamom
2 tablespoons instant espresso powder
1/2 teaspoon fresh-ground pepper
1/2 teaspoon fresh-ground nutmeg
2 tablespoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
3 1/2 cups whole milk
6 cups cake flour

Preheat oven to 350 and prepare baking pans by spraying them with Bak-klene, lining with parchment, and one more spray of Bak-klene to ensure release. In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar together, scraping the bowl to ensure the butter is completely incorporated into the sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time ensuring they are combined by scraping the bowl with a spatula. Add cardamom, espresso powder, pepper, nutmeg, baking powder, and salt – mixing again to ensure even distribution. Add milk and beat again to incorporate, followed by the cake flour. Divide batter between pans, making sure top of batter is sitting at around the same height in all of the pans. Bake for 30-45 minutes, depending on the size of your pans – checking the smaller ones first with a toothpick – removing from oven when toothpick comes out clean. Remove cakes from oven as they are done and allow to cool, then cover in plastic wrap and refrigerate until well-chilled, roughly 6-8 hours or overnight. Once chilled, the layers are ready to frost.

Frosting:

1 lb. butter
1 cup heavy cream
4 cups powdered sugar
1 tablespoon espresso powder
1 tablespoon ground cardamom

Place all ingredients into the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, turning mixer on low until ingredients have come together – then turn on high and beat for ten minutes. Frost chilled cake and place back into refrigerator to set until you are ready to enjoy, then make sure you remove cake from refrigerator 2-3 hours before you want to eat so the butter can come to room temperature and relax. Enjoy!

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Blueberry Buttermilk Cake with Blueberry Jam Buttercream

What an interesting cake for the spring and summer time! The photo for this recipe is a wedding cake, it is because it has been tripled. A two-layer 8 inch cake was converted into a 6 inch and 10 inch cake, then frosted with a vanilla buttercream and covered with marshmallow fondant that has been painted to match Sagaform's Retro dinnerware pattern.

2 cups (4 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
 1 1/2 cups sugar
 4 eggs
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 2 teaspoons vanilla bean paste
 2/3 cup milk
 3 cups all purpose flour
 3 cups fresh blueberries

Mix 1/2 cup of the flour with the blueberries. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prep baking pans with Bak-klene and place parchment inside, then spray again with release to ensure the cakes come out effortlessly. In the bowl of your stand mixer, beat the butter and sugar together until creamy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating until each egg is fully incorporated, scraping bowl if necessary. Add baking powder, salt, vanilla bean paste and milk, mixing again to combine. Add flour and mix well. Remove bowl from mixer and add the blueberry/flour mixture, folding gently with a spatula to ensure they get combined. Divide between the two pans so they both are evenly filled up to the same point on the side walls. Bake for 30-45 minutes, depending on size of the pan, then remove from oven and allow to cool fully before removing from pans.

Frosting:

1 lbs. unsalted butter, at room temperature
 4 cups powdered sugar
 1 cup heavy whipping cream
 1 teaspoon vanilla bean paste
 1/2 cup blueberry jam

Combine ingredients in a mixer fitted with the paddle attachment. Begin to mix the ingredients on low until they have come together, then switch to high and beat for ten minutes. Spread onto chilled cake.

Marshmallow Fondant
 16 oz. bag miniature marshmallows
 1/2 cup shortening
 3 tablespoons water
 1 tablespoon clear vanilla
 2 lbs. powdered sugar, plus more for kneading

Place marshmallows and water into a microwave safe bowl and cook for 1.5 minutes. Remove from microwave and stir using a spatula until the marshmallows have almost completely melted and come together. Add to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook, along with the vanilla, shortening, and powdered sugar. Turn mixer on and mix until ingredients have come together – you can't over mix, so don't worry. While ingredients are mixing, sprinkle your counter with powdered sugar and when the fondant is all together, remove from mixer and place onto powdered sugared counter. Begin to knead the dough until it is no longer sticky and when you pull it apart, almost resembles taffy. Another test is to press two fingers into the dough and it will feel almost like bread dough – but not that soft. Cover twice with plastic wrap and allow to sit on your counter until you are ready to roll out and cover your cake.



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Ethan Tweed Cake

I made a chocolate and vanilla tweed cake to compliment the Ethan Herringbone Dinnerware pattern by Ralph Lauren. This recipe makes 4-6 inch and 4-9 inch cakes – it can easily be translated into 6-8 inches or halve the recipe to make one cake. This also applies to the frosting recipe. I grate the chocolate on a Microplane box grater, with a glove on so the chocolate doesn't melt since I have hot hands.

2 cups (4 sticks) unsalted butter, room temperature
4 cups sugar
10 eggs
4 cups buttermilk
1/4 cup vanilla-bean paste
1/4 cup baking soda
2 teaspoon salt
4 cups all purpose flour
6 oz. bittersweet chocolate, grated

As with any baking, make sure you prep your pans with Bak-klene and parchment. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. In a mixer on medium, cream the butter and sugar together, then add the eggs – one at a time. Turn the mixer on low and slowly pour the buttermilk in, letting the mixer run until well combined. Turn mixer off and add vanilla-bean paste, baking soda and salt. Turn mixer on low and mix for 1-2 minutes, then turn off and add flour. Turn mixer back on low and mix until well combined, scraping bowl if necessary. Add grated chocolate and mix until just combined, turn off mixer and remove paddle – mix with spatula to ensure all of the ingredients are incorporated.

Place 2 cups batter into each of the 9 inch pans and divide the remaining between the 6 inch pans (roughly a little over 1 cup in each). Place into oven and bake for 30 minutes, rotating pans halfway through if necessary. Remove from oven and allow to cool for ten minutes, then remove from pans and let cool completely, then wrap in plastic wrap and place into refrigerator to fully chill.

Frosting:

3 lbs. unsalted butter, room temperature
1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
12 cups powdered sugar
2 tablespoons vanilla bean paste
1/2 cup bittersweet chocolate, melted and cooled

In the bowl of a stand mixer with the flat beater attached, beat the butter, whipping cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla bean paste for ten minutes. Assemble chilled cake layers and frost outside, leaving a thin coat – then refrigerate until well-chilled. Divide remaining icing in half and add chocolate to one, mixing well to incorporate. In 12 inch or larger icing bags, add chocolate icing to one bag, and vanilla to another – then place both bags inside a larger bag that has been fitted with 1M tip – this is what will create the swirl effect. Starting at the bottom of the cake, pipe swirls in a counter-clockwise motion going up the side of the cake – repeat until you have gone all around the circumference of the cake. Place back into refrigerator to chill. Assemble cake towers and allow cake to sit at room temperature for at least four hours before cutting.



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Models: Elle and Courtney from Ignite Models,
Mathew Janczewski, and Orlando Hunter



Tara Latour Angela Gown, \$13,550, **l'atelier couture**, lateliercouturebridal.com. Ferragamo Sandals, \$395, **Pumpz & Co.**, pumpzco.com. Robert Clergerie Shoes, \$550, **Pumpz & Co.**, pumpzco.com. Realia by Jen Crystal & Pearl Drop Earrings, \$128, **Realia by Jen**, realiabyjen.com.

Tara LaTour Blanca Gown, \$3,450, **l'atelier couture**, lateliercouturebridal.com. Leafy Crystal Head Band, \$32, **Anthropologie**, anthropologie.com.

Monique Lhuillier Darling
Wedding Gown, \$6,550,
Monique Lhuillier,
moniquelhuillier.com.
Vanessa Arizaga Necklace,
\$350, **Pumpz & Co.**,
pumpzco.com. Realia by
Jen Blingy Necklace, \$264,
Realia by Jen, realiabyjen.
com. Maria Elena clip,
\$475 for set of 3, **Monique
Lhuillier**.

Monique Lhuillier top,
\$1790, **Monique Lhuillier**,
moniquelhuillier.com.
Theory Pants, Nordstrom
\$255, **Nordstrom**, shop.
nordstrom.com. **Monique
Lhuillier** belt, \$990, **Monique
Lhuillier**. Monique Lhuillier
clutch, \$1,100, **Monique
Lhuillier**.

Fashions also seen on cover.





Vera Wang Jessica Gown,
\$9,900, **l'atelier couture**,
lateliercouturebridal.
com. Fur Caplet - Vintage.
Anthropologie Earrings,
\$38, **Anthropologie**,
anthropologie.com.



Event Planning & Prop Styling: Style-Architects, style-architects.com. **Florals:** Martha's Gardens, marthasfloralstudio.com. **Vintage Furniture and Accessories:** On Solid Ground Vintage Rentals, onsolidgroundrentals.com. **Gourmet Popcorn Buffet:** Gateaux Inc., gateaux-inc.com. **Invitations & Print Collateral:** Saima Says Design, saimasaysdesign.com. **Dishware, Glasses, and Napkins:** Anthropologie. **Silverware:** Stylist's Own. **Venue:** Women - Union Depot, uniondepot.org.



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Photography by Noah Wolf





Opposite page: Shirt, Heimie's Haberdashery, **Seaward & Stearn**, \$165, heimies.com. Jacket, Heimie's Haberdashery, **Peter Millar**, \$625. Bowtie, Heimie's Haberdashery, **Freedom From Doubt**, \$45. Pants, Heimie's Haberdashery, **Ballin**, \$195. Pocket Square, Heimie's Haberdashery, **Pjattelli**, \$24.

On this page: Shirt, \$98.50, **Hammermade**, hammermade.com. Suit, Heimie's Haberdashery, **S. Cohen**, \$645, heimies.com. Bowtie, Heimie's Haberdashery, **Seaward & Stearn**, \$55. Pocket Square, MartinPatrick3, **Altea**, \$50, martinpatrick3.com.

Fashions also seen on page 4.

Shirt, Martin Patrick3,
Mastai Ferretti, \$143,
martinpatrick3.com. Pants,
MartinPatrick3, **Rag & Bone**,
\$210. Jacket, MartinPatrick3,
D.S. Dundee, \$500. Tie,
MartinPatrick3, **Pierrepoint
Hicks**, \$85. Watch,
MartinPatrick3, **Tokyo Bay**,
\$105. Shoes, MartinPatrick3,
Grenson, \$4000.

Shirt, Heimie's
Haberdashery, **Steward
& Stearns**, \$165, heimies.
com. Jacket, MartinPatrick3,
Moods of Norway, \$449,
martinpatrick3.com. Pants,
MartinPatrick3, **Moods of
Norway**, \$229. Tie, Heimie's
Haberdashery, **Dion**, \$96.
Watch, MartinPatrick3,
Montaine, \$365. Shoes,
Model's own.



A man with short dark hair and a beard is standing in a rustic living room. He is wearing a white long-sleeved button-down shirt, a blue and white striped bow tie, light blue trousers, a brown leather belt with a gold buckle, and dark blue lace-up shoes. He is leaning against a blue tufted ottoman. The room has wood-paneled walls, a dark fireplace, and two sofas with colorful patterned pillows. A mounted deer head is on the wall above the fireplace. Two large white lamps on wooden stands are on either side of the man.

Shirt, MartinPatrick3,
Mastai Ferretti, \$143,
martinpatrick3.com. Pants,
J.Crew, \$75, jcrew.com.
Belt, Askov Finlayson,
Smathers & Branson, \$165,
askovfinlayson.com. Shoes,
MartinPatrick3, **Johnston &
Murphy**, \$175. Watch, Askov
Finlayson, **Braun**, \$235.
Bowtie, Hammermade, \$65,
hammermade.com.

Event Planning & Prop Styling: Style-Architects, style-architects.com. **Florals:** Martha's Gardens, marthasfloralstudio.com. **Table linens, blue patterned napkin linens, table, plates, glassware, flatware:** Après Party and Tent Rental, apresparty.com. **Acrylic Arm Chairs:** BeEvents, beeventsdesign.com. **Cake:** Gateaux Inc., gateaux-inc.com. **Invitations, escort cards, custom menu napkins:** Beau Papier at Gateaux Inc., gateaux-inc.com. **Venue:** Men - The Bachelor Farmer, thebachelorfarmer.com.



{ WEDDING FASHION RESOURCES }

by Shane Lueck



Style-Architects

Style-Architects is a boutique lifestyle services company dedicated to creating personalized and awe-inspiring events, weddings and wardrobe styling services. Based in the North Loop area of Minneapolis, Style-Architects' events and wedding services include everything from full-service planning to custom packages that cater to individual style and personality. Whether it is a small intimate event or a lavish affair, the Style-Architects dream team of event planners, stylists, designers, and public relations and branding experts collaborate to ensure your event unfolds flawlessly and captures your style perfectly. Consider them "Cool. Calm And {Brilliantly} Collective." **219 North 2nd Street Suite 400, Minneapolis**
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A boutique that "silhouettes the desire for distinction and expression of identity and environment," Roe Wolfe offers beauty consultation alongside a collection of clothing, beauty products and home ambiance. The identity of Roe Wolfe is someone the company believes everyone knows. She is Roe deer: supple & sensual, cautious & creative, intuitive in demeanor. She is Wolfe: an animal that is an infectious captivator, enigmatic, empowering and deliberate.

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Photogen Inc.

As a luxury wedding photography company, Photogen Inc. works with other high-end luxury vendors to create an overall experience and give personal attention to each client, all while striving to deliver the highest quality product in the industry. With a goal to create beautiful images and push limits to elevate the quality of work in the industry, Eliesa Johnson and her team of thirteen love to collaborate with the client in order to inspire greatness. Photography and video are going hand-in hand as the company features the videography of Chris Wegner, offering video services to clients. Being a photographer isn't a business for Johnson, it's a lifestyle.

1618 Central Avenue Northeast, Minneapolis
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On Solid Ground Vintage Rentals

On Solid Ground Vintage Rentals was created to provide bride & grooms, event planners, photographers, stylists and vintage lovers of all types with a unique and rare collection of vintage furniture, upholstered seating, serving & tableware, small & large accessories. As the primary curator of the collection, owner Sarah Dreher, is constantly on the hunt for unique and wonderfully worn pieces of history that will bring vintage character to any event. She is eager to share the "one-of-a-kind" collection at On Solid Ground Vintage Rentals with anyone who shares a passion for the chipped paint, aged wood and tastefully tattered pieces she loves so much!

4019 Sheridan Avenue North, Minneapolis
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Photography this page and opposite: Eliesa Johnson of Photogen Inc, photogen-inc.com

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Martha's Gardens

Martha's Gardens has offered custom floral designs for fifteen years with outstanding wedding and event work and deliveries made daily throughout the metro area. Martha's passions lie in the joy and recognition that flowers bring. There is nothing that brings that crazy, special smile like when someone is looking at flowers. Since flowers are natural, just as people are, Martha believes they can be an expression of love, joy, beauty, or at times grief and sadness. With a dedication to the earth and its people, Martha's Gardens use sustainable and organic materials whenever possible as well as buying locally in the warmer months. Her mission statement is “I do what I love, what people enjoy, and what I hope will become an enduring thing of beauty and joy.”

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Celebrating

{ WEDDING VENUE }

by Andy Lien



THE BACHELOR FARMER

The Bachelor Farmer is housed in a historic brick-and-timber warehouse located in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis and serves fresh and simple food that honors Minnesota's Nordic heritage. Though it opened in the fall of 2011, the event spaces on the second floor of The Bachelor Farmer "soft opened" to the public in the winter of 2012, slowly taking on events to ensure the high quality of service that guests have come to expect from The Bachelor Farmer. The owners of The Bachelor Farmer, brothers Eric and Andrew Dayton, are welcoming to the community and donated their time and resources as Vice Chairs of the Minnesotans United for All Families effort to defeat the Marriage Amendment last fall.

THE DETAILS

Is there space for a ceremony? Yes, there are a few different options for a ceremony setting.

Is there a dressing room? There is no formal dressing room. However, one of the smaller event spaces could be used as a private dressing room prior to a ceremony.

What is the rental cost and what does it include? None! There is no additional event space fee, there is just the standard food and beverage minimums. These mini-

mums vary depending on which room the guest is interested in renting, and range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per room. Full floor buyouts are also available.

Are outside wedding cake vendors allowed? No, all food and beverages are provided by The Bachelor Farmer. For wedding cakes, there is a special private dining dessert menu that offers a cake section.

Opening/closing time: The average is 5:30pm open to 11:00pm closing. However, there is some flexibility.

Minimum - Maximum # of Guests: The entire floor can accommodate 150 standing max. The max number of seated guests is 50 (due to the layout, seated dinners are only offered in the largest room).

Are there audio/visual services available? Yes, there are select a/v services offered through The Bachelor Farmer, and two of the rooms include projection screens.

Parking: There are plenty of nearby options, including street and surface lots.

Contact:

612.206.3932

Julie Brousseau: julie.brousseau@thebachelorfarmer.com

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Celebrating

{ WEDDING VENUE }

by Andy Lien

UNION DEPOT

Union Depot has an important place in American railroad history and is one of the great railroad stations of the 20th century. Prominent in St. Paul, Union Depot has recently been transformed into a state-of-the-art multimodal regional transportation hub that opened on December 8, 2012, welcoming a new generation of retail opportunities, arts and culture, and events for the public to enjoy. The event space is new at Union Depot and was put in place during the renovation. The Waiting Room, approximate the size of a football field, offers flexibility for event layouts for large size events. Union Depot is currently renovating two new event spaces to host smaller groups. There will be a new conference room for groups up to 48, and a on the second level about the concourse there will be a fabulous new space to hold dinners up to 250 and cocktail receptions for up to 400. This space will have an amazing view of the Waiting Room. Both are scheduled to open Spring 2013.

THE DETAILS

Is there space for a ceremony? Logistically ceremonies could be held at Union Depot, however, no dressing rooms are available so it does not serve as an ideal location for a ceremony.

Is there a dressing room? No

What is the rental cost and what does it include?

Union Depot is currently offering an introductory rental fee of \$1,000. This includes security, housekeeping, an engineer and event personnel. Equipment, such as tables, chairs, linens, dishes, etc., must be arranged with vendor from Preferred Vendor List.

Opening/Closing Time: Union Depot is open 24 hours.

Approved Caterers: As a new venue, Union Depot is currently working on putting together Preferred Caterer and Preferred Vendor lists. These lists will be available in April 2013.

Minimum - Maximum # of Guests: This is dependent upon the room and room set up. Conference Room: Up to 42, 2nd Level Concourse: 250-400, Waiting Room: 1,000+

Are there audio/visual services available? Yes, a/v services will depend on which area and set up is chosen.

Parking: There are plenty of nearby options, including street and surface lots.

Contact:

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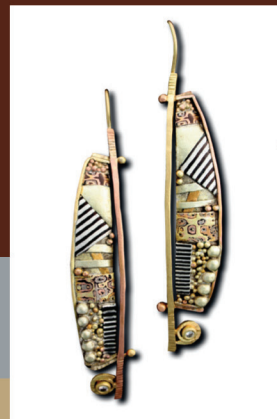
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A Toast to FOOD

Love is many a splendored thing. Love lifts us up where we belong. All you need is love. Well, love and a fabulous caterer wouldn't hurt. As you move from the exciting thrill of betrothal into the harsh light of actual wedding planning, we're here to talk you through the really important stuff. First comes love (write your vows from the heart), then comes venue— next comes the caterer with the gluten-free, vegan friendly, farm-to-table menu. The day is yours to celebrate who you are as a couple. Let's take it outside, shout your love to the world, and feast with friends and family.

First, if I may share two cautionary tales. It was a stunning

event, beautiful venue and a moment of celebration, but I sat staring into a plate of soggy, out-of-season asparagus covered in Pace Picante sauce beside a hockey puck masquerading as a chicken breast. On my own wedding day, we'd decided to do the catering ourselves and were left without enough food. My brother-in-law Paul would forever refer to that event as the Great Famine. These people shelled out for the extra Crate & Barrel gift wrapped shipping. Let's send them home with full bellies and sun-kissed cheeks.

Pull out the highlighter, spreadsheets and grab your sweetie. We have some helpful tips and tricks to finding the right venue, caterer and unconventional dessert for your day.

Continued on page 54 ➞



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CHOOSING THE RIGHT CATERER:



Outdoor charm with Tastebud Tart.
Photo by Amber Procaccini

For those who don't have a favorite chef on speed dial, it's an important and difficult journey through menus, budgets, and uncertainty. To help make your decision easier, we sat down with the incomparable Molly Hermann, better known to the foodie community as Tastebud Tart.

She, along with business partner Tracy Morgan, operate Kitchen in the Market, the shared commercial kitchen space home to food trucks, bakeries, catering companies and more. They also host a number of fun cooking classes inside their Midtown Global Market space.

Hermann grew up on a farm in Florida (get her talking about her love of Southern food and that accent resurfaces.) She took that understanding and passion for farm to table food to school, where she studied Nutrition. Her catering style focuses on fresh, organic, healthy food with extensive knowledge of great vegetarian, vegan and gluten free eating. (Although the girl can get down with some charcuterie.)

Because of her holistic understanding of food and entertaining, we thought she would be perfect to help us face the daunting task of choosing a caterer.

How would you describe your food?

Fresh, comfort food with a twist with some southern roots.

How did you get into catering?

I went to school and studied Nutrition. Then I became a personal chef and I started getting requests to do catering.

What is the first step couples should

consider when selecting a caterer?

They should consider their style and their guest's dietary concerns and if they have any allergies. That's the first step to finding the right caterer.

It can be over-whelming. Where should the search begin?

Well, may I suggest Lavender Magazine? A good old fashioned Google Search does wonders. Word of mouth is how most people find out about caterers.

What is the biggest misconception about selecting a wedding caterer?

Budget is the biggest misconception. People want what they want for a Costco budget. Or they think all they can afford is Costco food. A misconception is that you can't afford a caterer. There are ways for the right caterer to make it work whatever your budget. It just depends on what you want to do.

Catering doesn't have to be fancy. It can be very simple. Caterers can do a portion of the event – like if you want to do a pot luck.

What are some good questions to ask a potential caterer?

Where do they get their ingredients from? What are their strengths?

Don't be afraid to ask about price. Oftentimes there is a difference in price between buffet vs. family-style vs. plated dinner.

Ask if there are any other costs. Is there a chef fee or a travel fee? Ask about how they handle gratuity. Some caterers will add a straight 20% gratuity charge to their invoice. (I don't.) Everyone handles their pricing differently.

Also, not every venue will allow for an outside caterer. Some have specific agreements with certain caterers or make you use their service. You want to make sure that you can get who you want. Or you might need special licensing.

Consider how big your event is. Some caterers can't do huge, depending on what part of the season it might be.

Do a lot of caterers also offer cakes?

Most caterers do dessert, but it's normal to have a separate cake vendor.

If you were to get re-married today, what would you do differently?

There'd be booze. We had no booze.

What kind of food did you serve?

Southern cornbread, lots of fresh vegetables and vegetarian options. I would not change my cake. We had a Hummingbird cake.

What is that?

It's a carrot cake with pineapple and coconut with cream cheese frosting.

What advice do you have for couples planning to hold their event outside?

Always have a Plan B.

Visit Molly at Kitchen in the Market or Tastebud Tart Catering, tastebudtart.com

FINDING A VENUE:

There are only so many of those precious summer nights. Why not celebrate your love in the elements? Most area parks are available for rental and there are a few venues that have outdoor space, but require a contact with caterers who may not be up to your refined standards. There is one place that has it all: stunning vistas and the food comes from the same award-winning kitchen as their fine dining menu.

Solera has been a long-time destination for dinners in downtown Minneapolis. Above the restaurant is also a collection of event spaces and an entire rooftop, available for your special day.

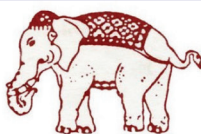
The first convenience they afford your guests is the valet parking available, making the streets and hectic parking garages easier for your friends and family to navigate. Guests are directed into the event entrance and whisked upstairs to the event space.

There is an outdoor terrace; perfect for a cocktail reception with room for about 65 people. Meanwhile, the rooftop is full of beautiful views and can hold 150 people, seated. At a pig roast I had the pleasure of attending last summer, guests were able to grab heaping plates of food and lounge in a large, comfortable space, that wasn't overly casual. It was relaxed, but elegant, and a perfect, summer evening. Watching the sun dip down on the downtown horizon was a perfect denouement to a dazzling event.

Solera is also nimble enough to handle much larger events. If you'd like to have the ceremony outside, the reception can take place in one of their other rooms in the downstairs. They can accommodate up to 1,000 people at an event. Inside is all you'll ever need for a hopping reception, choice of linens, stage, portable bars and bartenders, a dance floor and audio-visual equipment for those presentations of your adorable baby pictures. They can even help you book blocks of rooms




Sunny at Solera. Photo courtesy of Solera.




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The food available at Solera comes from the kitchen of Jorge Guzman. His take on Spanish food is a mix of traditional dishes with his own twists. Even better, is his commitment to local farmers. Whenever possible he uses sustainably raised ingredients. It's delicious cuisine that comes grown with conscience –again, whenever possible; the exquisite Iberico ham can only come from Spain.

Best of all, Solera, the chef and the staff have been vocal proponents of legalizing marriage equality. Not only are many employees members of the GLBT community, they seek out business partners who are allies to the community.

Solera, 900 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, solera-restaurant.com

CREATIVE THOUGHTS ON CAKE:

A Cupcake Social: A hot summer wedding calls for a haute take on tradition. Few culinary trends have caught, flared up, and taken root quite as quickly as the mobile food vendors. In the warmer months downtown Minneapolis' Marquette Avenue is lined with possibilities. There are big trucks, little carts, round trucks and even peddled

carts. These small businesses are as varied as the folks who operate them.

Why not take the traditional multi-tiered cake business and turn it on its ear? Perfect for an unconventional couple who know how to have fun, there are dessert trucks available to cater your event.

A Cupcake Social rolled into town selling the one dessert that people claimed to be sick of. Hint? They aren't. These little sweets are heavenly. The flavors are unique and wonderfully balanced. The danger of any cake or sweet is a sugary heavy hand. These treats are sweet enough to top a meal, but not so sweet that you can't pop half a dozen down your gullet.

Owners Jess and Suzette have experience working closely with couples to create a cupcake perfectly suited to the couple. Two recent grooms worked with them to create "The Dude," a Big Lebowski-inspired cupcake flavored like a White Russian. They can handle any event, small or big – they've done over 1,000 cupcakes for past events. Now, this is a wedding invite they'll be clamoring to receive.


A Cupcake Social, acupcakesocial.com

CRAVIN' PIE: Or, if you're just so over cake, check out these new under-the-radar tasty treats. Cravin' Pie is still new on the scene, but worth seeking out. They will soon be in high demand. Their Mexican Chocolate pie won 1st place at the inaugural Twin Cities Pie Experiment. They went on to compete in the Food Experiment National Championship where they took home third place.

The little hand pies are immediately crave-able. The shatter-crisp crust is packed with just-sweet-enough fillings. They're easy to eat and add an extra-festive feel.

Pie packs are typically available in the 100 – 300 range, but they can do up to 500 pies with enough notice.

Cravin' Pie, cravinpie.com

No matter how you choose to celebrate your love approach it like cooking – with reckless abandon. No matter where or how you feed your guests, know that this is the first breaking of bread with your village to celebrate a beautiful life together. But take it from me: remember to feed them well, or you'll never hear the end of it. Cheers! 



Circular Mexican Chocolate and Square Brownie Batter Pies by Cravin' Pie. Photo by Hubert Bonnet



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A Roadmap to Follow: Top Ten GLBT Wedding Traditions

As a wedding planner, I've had the opportunity to work with many, many, couples over the years; straight, same-sex couples—it doesn't matter—certain questions always arise. What is expected of us? What rules are we supposed to follow? What traditions are people expecting us to follow? They always ask, "Please can you give us a list of traditions we are expected to follow?"

Gay marriage or straight marriage—whatever terms society use—the fact remains that a wedding is taking place between two people who love one another. Years of assisting couples of all kinds create a memorable day of celebration, plus my personal experience of having a gay father who is married to his love of over a quarter century, have given me an insight into societal, cultural, and event-savvy advice. So, here is my list.

The following are just a few tips for making YOUR wedding a unique and personal experience:

1. To heck with rules and traditions. As with any wedding, this day is about your love and who you are as a couple. Make it your day with *your* special touches that reflect you as a couple. If you want to follow a family tradition do so, but if you want your ceremony to be totally different, that's okay, too!

Love to travel? Why not drape the ceremony with flags from all the countries you've visited? Love theater? Have a full theatrical choir break out in an upbeat showtune as you both walk in.

2. Consider having you each walk down a separate aisle in unison. Why limit yourself to one aisle when there are two of you? This way you indicate you are both approaching this union separately with the culmination of coming together.

If you are considering having two aisles instead of one central aisle, I highly recommend that you invest in a second shooter so that you can have both your special moments captured on film!

3. Many GLBT wedding vows reference the law. Many couples choose to use an excerpt from the ruling by Judge Vaughn Walker in the Proposition 8 trial. Here is some of that statement:

"Marriage is the state recognition and approval of a couple's choice to live with each other, to remain committed to one another, and to form a household based on their own feelings about one another and to join in an economic partnership and support one another and any dependents. ..."

4. "I now pronounce you *legally* married!" That statement has a lot of impact, and as it's being said in more and more states, it carries a message in and of itself. I have witnessed many a calm gathering break into a room of raucous cheering and happy tears when those simple six words are spoken.

5. Offer champagne or lemonade to your guests as they arrive for the ceremony. It sets the tone that this is indeed a celebration; it will be fun and it just may help take the edge off of great aunt Mildred and her puritanical attitude.

6. The Greeting/Call to Attention: Your officiate announces to the guests that the festivities are about to begin. He/She can say a few words about you and your relationship and then lead the guests in a pre-ceremony toast to the wedding they are about to help celebrate.

7. Add a Foundation Covenant or Quaker Marriage Certificate to the ceremony. These are signed by the couple and their officiate during the ceremony, and by all of their guests who were lucky enough to witness

the ceremony. The signed document is usually a piece of art and a wonderful item to frame and hang in your new home (as photographed and provided above by Paper Thick Ink Weddings, www.paperthickink.com).

"We pledge to each other to be loving friends and partners in marriage. To talk and to listen, to trust and appreciate one another; to respect and cherish each other's uniqueness; and to support, comfort and strengthen each other through life's joys and sorrows...."

8. Make the reception festive and personal. You do not have to do the chicken dance, cut the cake, or throw the bouquet unless you want to! Remember though, if you cut some of those elements you need to do something to entertain your guests. Bring in entertainers—fire swallowers, drag queens, or professional dancers to get the party started.

9. Create a cake topper that reflects you. There are thousands of choices out there. Have a portrait made of the two of you, or create a stylish and fun twist to the typical cake topper. Or, use the cutouts to indicate two women or two men (as photographed and provided above by Miss Cake, www.misscake.co.uk).

10. Finally, did I mention? To heck with the rules. This is about you and your day. Who cares what others expect? Make it your own unique day filled with love and you'll end up with a lifetime of memories for both you and your guests! ▣



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Tucked inside this bouquet is a magnetic boutonniere holder with acacia, fern shoot, hyacinth and dahlia bud, allowing the couple to hold part of the bouquet long into the night.

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5. A Short Guide to a Healthy Marriage: Gay Edition Cider Mill Press

Relationships have been written about for ages, but newly "out" and recognized GLBT relationships have yet to have their specific time in the spotlight. Marriage and family therapist Sharon Gilchrest O'Neill addresses the unique challenges faced by same-sex couples and offers 20 inspiring and simple (yet effective) suggestions as couples grow in their relationships.

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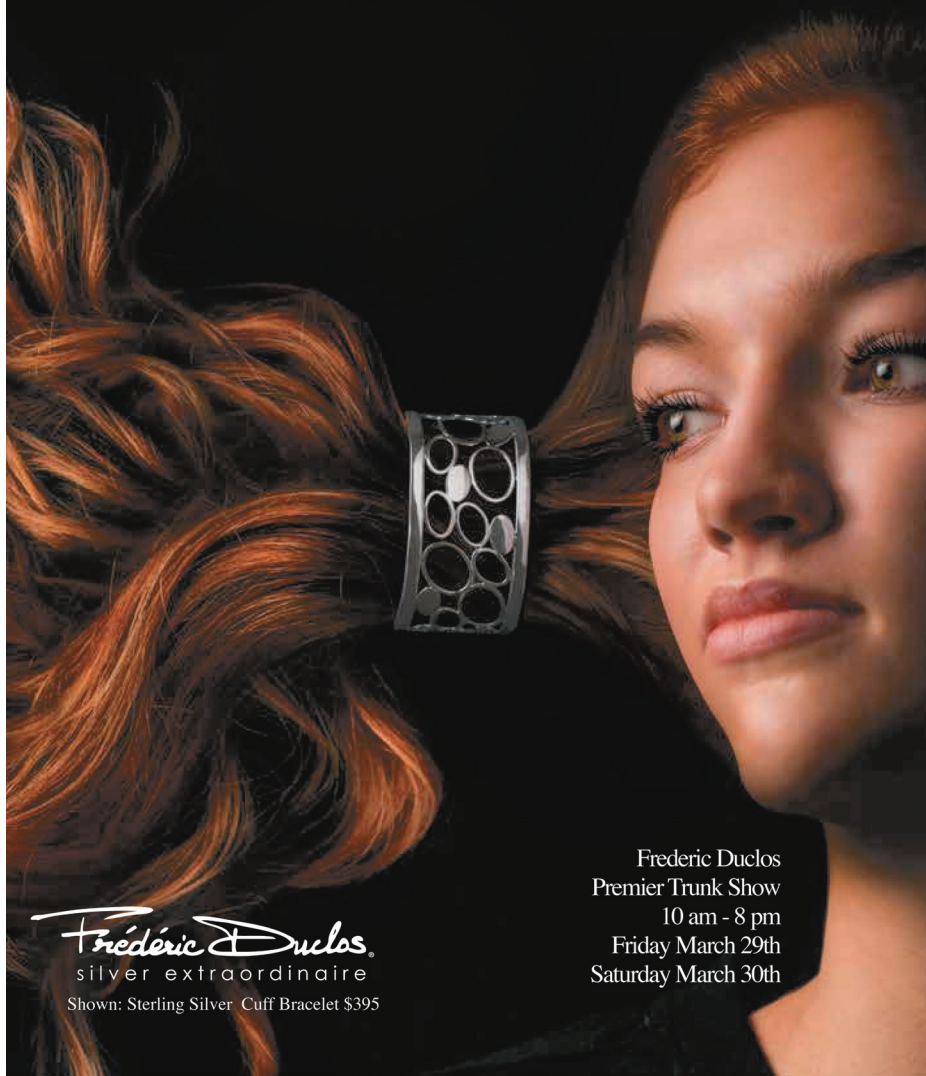
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Dating Since: January, 2010

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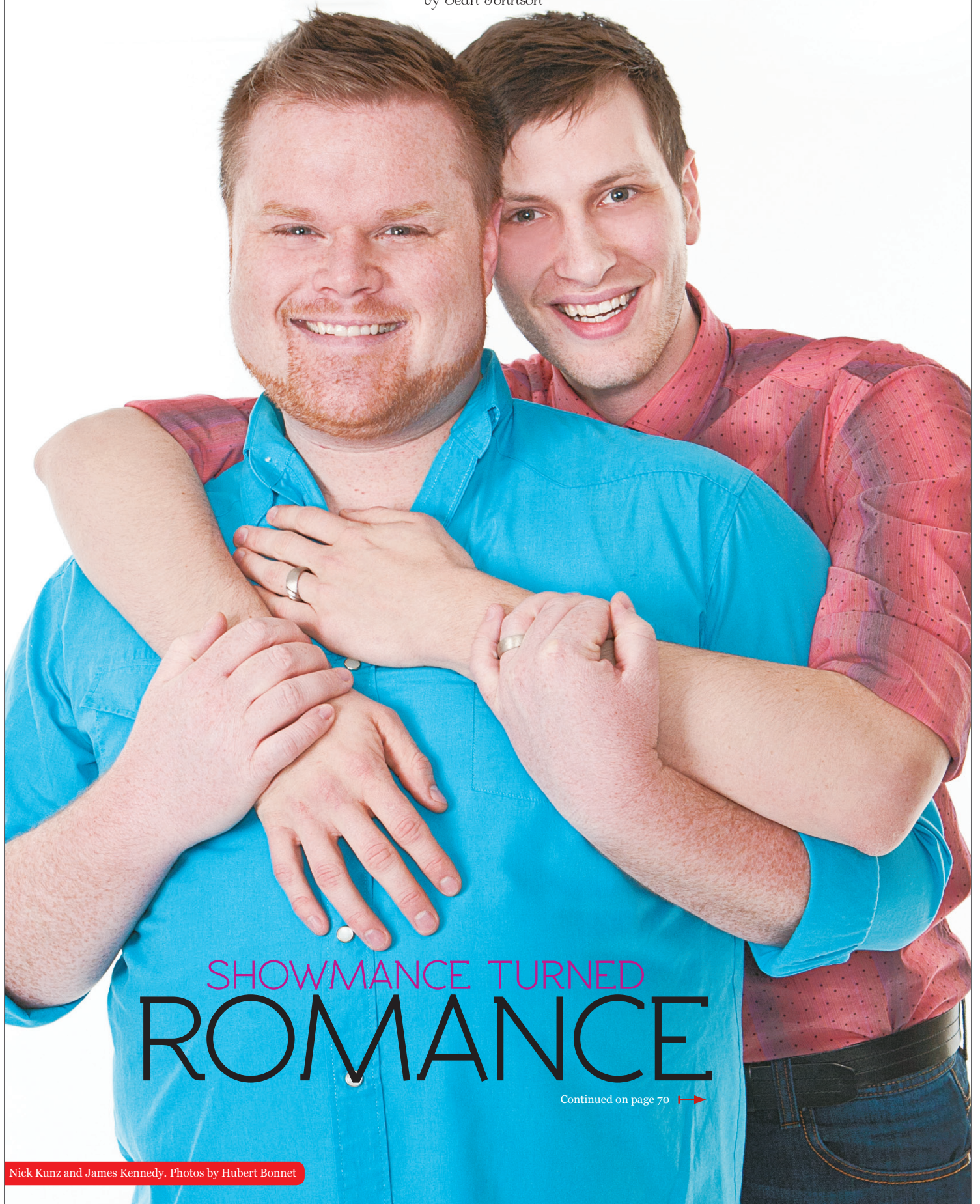
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Loving

{ LOOKING AHEAD }

by Sean Johnson



SHOWMANCE TURNED ROMANCE


Continued on page 70 →

Nick Kunz and James Kennedy. Photos by Hubert Bonnet

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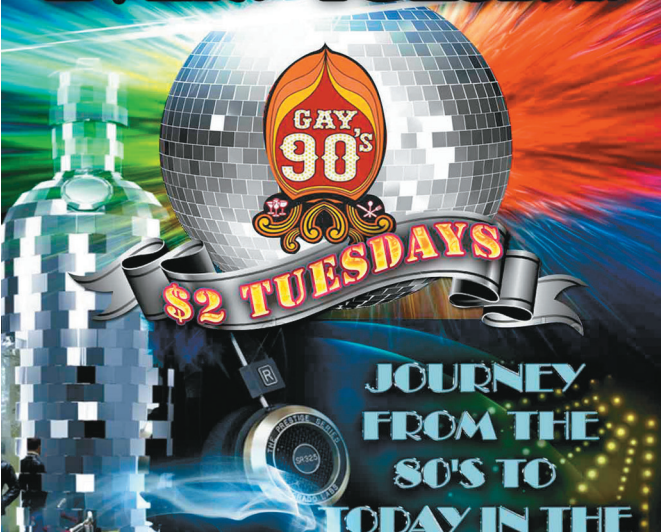
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Photo: V.P. Virtuccio
Glitter Garden

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Continued from page 68

At first glance, the moment of Nick Kunz and James Kennedy's engagement wasn't exactly picturesque. It wasn't elaborately planned, nor did it take place in an idyllic location like something out of a romantic comedy.

The conversation began with the phrase "if we get married" when thinking about the future. This gradually became "when we get married... but still in the future" as the two became more certain of what they wanted. As they sat on the couch in their Uptown Minneapolis apartment this past September, Nick asked the question, "Where do you see our relationship in five years?"

James' answer? "A house, maybe a dog, and marriage."

After the two calmly decided that they would get married, James asked, "Nick, would you marry me?" to which Nick replied, "Would you marry me?" Because no engagement story would truly be complete without that make-your-heart-melt moment, James and Nick replied "Yes" simultaneously and the deal was done.

James and Nick met while in rehearsal for the Bloomington Civic Theatre's production of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" in 2009. James was 20 and a sophomore at the University of Minnesota studying dance, and Nick was 26. James remembers being immediately attracted to Nick at their first rehearsal and charmingly started a conversation with him during their first break. James wanted to keep the momentum going. Luckily, the musical featured a song performed entirely in French. James, who had taken five semesters of French, quickly learned that Nick had no experience with the language. James saw this opportunity and claimed the moment. "I suggested that I could tutor him and teach him

the pronunciations. Of course with no ulterior motives whatsoever," added James coyly.

Because the show's run required that the two see each other for at least five days a week for a period of two months, Nick described the beginnings of the relationship as a "showmance turned romance." Because of the difference in age and where they were in their lives, Nick was skeptical about the longevity of the relationship and doubted that it would last past the final fall of the curtain. James, however, remembered it differently. Nick was not looking for just a short-term relationship, but assumed that James, who was then still a student at the University of Minnesota, didn't want the same thing. James immediately called Nick "an ass" for making that assumption and expressed that they wanted the same thing: long-term commitment.

Fast forward a few years and the two are just beginning to plan their wedding, tentatively set for April 27, 2014. The engagement has been a joyful continuation of their relationship, which comes with the benefit of a 'princely' new title. "I love calling Nick my fiancé," said James.

The engagement has also provided the couple an opportunity to think more about their life together. Nick looks forward to a change of residency from their apartment "because James said that we can't move into a house until we get married." James, who came from a family of 11 siblings, looks forward to raising children. "A very large part of my heart is dedicated to good fathers who love and spend time with their children," said James, "so I'm excited that that person gets to also be the man I married."

With over a year before the big day, the scope of the wedding has already changed.

The initial price tag of their dream wedding, after considering all of the tiny details, was sobering. However, it was enough to make them quickly focus on the true importance of the ceremony: their love.

"Why are we having a wedding in the first place? Is it just to throw a big fancy party? Or is it to stand in public in front of our family and friends and devote ourselves to one another?" James asked. "Methinks it's the latter – with just an innocent peppering of the former."

Wedding planning hasn't been without its fun. Aside from helping the couple realize even further their love for one another, planning their wedding has granted them the ability to create their own rules and completely personalize the experience. Both men will have "Groomsmen" in addition to Nick's "Best Ma'am" putting a refreshing and kitschy spin on traditional wedding roles.

Coming off of the defeat of the Marriage Amendment last November and with upcoming legislation in the Minnesota House and Senate, support for same-sex marriage in the Land of 10,000 Lakes is at an all-time high. The process to legalization is not, however, of utmost importance to the couple. "We're getting married regardless," said James, "and no, we're not getting 'married.' We're having a wedding, not a 'wedding.'"

While they believe that the piece of paper will come in the future, the future of the legislation has little impact on the future of their life together.

"I'm getting married because I love Nick, not so I can get a tax break", James said, "I don't want to wait any longer than I have to for my husband." □

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{ MOVING IN TOGETHER }

by Shane Lueck

A NEW LIFE, A NEW LOOK

Congratulations! You've fallen in love! Whether the two of you are newlyweds, just moving in together, or an older couple who once found love but are now with a new person, it's time to brace yourself for the next hurdle: making your two styles coexist. Building a new life for the two of you can be difficult. Their bad habits aside, what if their style doesn't suit your fancy? Two worlds colliding also means two styles clashing and navigating these waters can be a tricky (and emotional) journey for both members of the couple. Taking that next step is a huge transition when all of the sudden you have to negotiate your personal style with that of someone else. Sometimes that transition will be easy. Maybe the two styles match, but often this isn't the case.

Enter Lisa Peck: the owner and principal designer for LiLu Interiors with over 26 years of experience. Peck has seen many people through a lot of life transitions and stresses the importance of focusing on things that both people like. "Look at what things brought us together, what we have in common and build an aesthetic around that," she says.

One of the first steps for the couple to do before anything else is to take note of all of the pieces already owned. "You have to see what things are so important to you in terms of emotional value that you could just never give it up," says Peck. She stresses that it can be difficult if a piece is important to one, but the partner hates it. If this is the case, Peck advises a solution in which it doesn't have to be given up, but is also not in the main rooms of the house by placing it in a guest room or office.

After an initial inventory of the couple's assets, Peck suggests measuring everything to make sure it fits together. "If you know you're going into a new place and only half of the stuff fits, what things can you say 'we're

going to go purchase this together?'" explains Peck. "So then you have some things you had beforehand as well as new things you got together." According to Peck, the fun starts when the couple goes out to shop or work with a designer to find things that truly represent them.

The best method to decipher what represents a couple, according to Peck, is to compile a list of words to describe the couple, not the individuals within the partnership. The list should be some adjectives that describe

who the two people are as a couple – almost like coming up with a couple brand. "Whatever your words are as a couple, build your aesthetic around that list and what your core values are," says Peck. "Some people are really into taking care of the earth and being earth friendly, so reusing things would be an important part of that. Or if you're sophisticated, focus on what is sophisticated to you. Or if you're fun and like to entertain, then maybe comfortable is more what you have to go to."

But what about that one piece of furniture





Window Treatment Fabric:
Westwind #3746 Noella in Sage by
Pindler and Pindler

Loveseats: Andorra Loveseat #C130-
58 by Charles Stewart

Fabric for Loveseats: Ballroom
#9800-12 by Brentano

Pair of Chairs: Turner Chair 4049-
C1 in Graded in Fabric Celeste
Mineral Grade 19 by Dwell Studio
for Precedent

Ottoman: Cocktail Ottoman 1623-90
by Lee Industries

Fabric on Ottoman: Ceylon in
Hummingbird #4525-05 by
Brentano

X Console Table: Hollywood Console
by Tritter Feefer

Coffee Table: Campaign Table by
Jamie Young

End table: Rustic Copper Ring Table
9.91827 by Global Views

Custom Fabric on Large Pillows:
Bukhara 6039/05 Mahogany by
Pollack

Lumbar Pillow on Loveseat: Lace
Ink Pillow through Room and Board

Orange Pillows on Chairs: Lyra
Cayenne Pillow through Crate and
Barrel

Armoire and Art: Existing of Clients

Photography: Susan Gilmore

Interior Designers on Project: Lisa
Peck, ASID and Christina Winter,
Allied Member ASID

that you just can't bring yourself to let go of even though your partner loathes it? Making a minor alteration or two could be all that is needed. This was the case for one couple Peck helped. "Her grandmother gave her a chair and he didn't like it, so we reupholstered it in a really modern fabric," Peck explains. "If you're willing to update it, maybe new hardware or fabric, just finding something to merge the two aesthetics could make a difference. Changing it can be a key to everyone feeling like they've had input."

Not every couple is going to contact a designer, but Peck believes that consulting a designer can give people confidence by having a third party to bounce ideas off of. "There is a third person to guide you," she says. "If you're really stuck, a designer can help with the negotiating and it doesn't have to be a super expensive cost either."

No matter the methods used, Peck assures that for long term happiness and health as a couple, finding that balance is important. Her greatest advice is just to be honest with what

you do and do not like. "Never agree if your partner is like 'I love this rug and I just have to have it,' but you hate it. If you agree, you might find yourself regretting it and resenting that person five years later," she urges. "Don't just think aesthetically but really think about who you are as people and let that guide the process. Keep in mind why you fell in love in the first place. 'I love them because their edgy or stylish,' or whatever it is. Remember that this is one reason why you fell in love in the first place."

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Catering			Jewelry		
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Crave Downtown Minneapolis 825 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN (612) 332-1133 www.craveamerica.com		Built out of a passion to create a dining experience unlike any other. Fresh. Vibrant. American.	Scheherazade Jewelers 3525 W. 69th St., Edina, MN (952) 926-2455 www.sjewelers.com		Locally owned & operated, Scheherazade at Galleria showcases diamonds, exquisite designer jewelry, and fine Swiss timepieces.
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Sawatdee Thai Restaurant 607 Washington Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN (612) 338-6451 www.sawatdee.com		Offering Full service Thai catering, and a private party room for up to 50 guests.	StudioSame Photography (651) 247-0681 pat@studiosame.com www.studiosame.com		Wedding and family photography for everyone. StudioSame: Capturing images of love and family for everyone.
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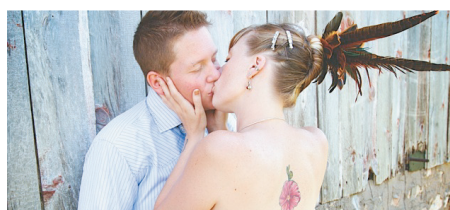
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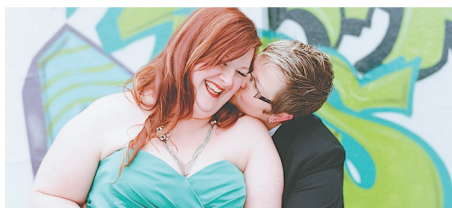
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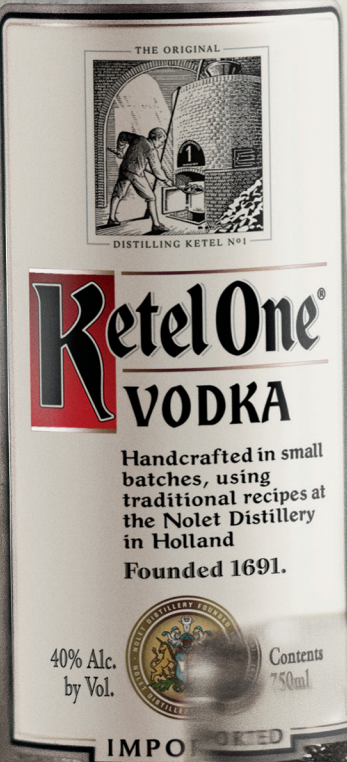
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